

AIDS is a global epidemic. It deserves a global response, not a unilateral one.

The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) just mentioned the global gag rule and the President is complicating AIDS treatments and prevention even further by attempting to apply the Mexico City policy to global AIDS programs. The Mexico City policy known as the Global Gag Rule prohibits U.S. funding of international organizations that perform abortions or provide abortion referrals or counseling with their own money.

In the past the Mexico City policy has been used to restrict the use of family planning funds. It has never even been applied to HIV funds and it is unwise for the President to politicize this. Under the administration's new proposed policy, only organizations that do not offer abortion-related services or those that offer abortion-related services, separate from HIV/AIDS services, would be eligible for AIDS funds.

This would be an inefficient and unrealistic expectation for most clinics, organizations operating in developing countries.

I will quickly say it is time for our President to really understand all of the work that all of us have put into this issue and get with the strategy and the plan that is developed by activists and people worldwide and do some real work in helping to deal with this pandemic.

#### HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) who has a record of his own that we all know and we are very proud of what he has done to preserve democracy in this country and his serving. The gentleman's humility in yielding is just a testament to his concern. I thank the gentleman very much.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that we stand here at a crossroads right now. Millions of people all over the world are in the wake of a humanitarian disaster to pale all others. It makes the black plague of the Middle Ages look like small things. HIV and AIDS is a global killer. As ranking member of the House Subcommittee on Africa and as a human being who has seen with my own eyes the havoc HIV and AIDS is wreaking on an entire continent of Africa, I simply am compelled to speak out not only in Africa, but now in India, a nation that will have the largest population in the world in the next few years, even exceeding that of the People's Republic of China. It will have perhaps 1.5 billion people, surpassing China's 1.3 to 4 billion people.

□ 1830

It is spreading there and India. It is spreading in China, and so it is something that is all around us; but I think that if we can deal with it in Africa, I think that what we learned there can actually be used in India where it has not yet taken hold as it has in Africa. And it has taken hold in Africa because the world has been silent on it, as we have seen, as devastation through the years, year in and year out, since 1988 when HIV and AIDS was first encountered in this country.

In January's State of the Union address, President Bush announced a new initiative to combat HIV and AIDS in the Caribbean. This initiative would give \$15 billion for fighting HIV and AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean, including \$10 billion, what President Bush called "new money."

This initiative, and the fact that 10 percent of Bush's speech at the State of the Union address was spent on discussing Africa, certainly marks a new day and a new pledge of a new commitment by the administration to pay more attention to the needs of the African continent. We do have concerns about this new money and where it will come from.

While child-survival funding for Africa increased in the President's 2004 budget request by about \$80 million to the \$542 million, this largely reflects the increase in the HIV and AIDS funding. Meanwhile, almost all other African aid was significantly decreased. For example, democracy conflict and humanitarian assistance will be cut by \$25 million in the 2004 budget if the President's request is agreed upon by Congress.

This is at a time when the U.S. is urging for sound policies and for governments to demonstrate they are fighting corruption and ruling justly in order to receive part of the \$1.3 billion from the Millennium Challenge Account next year. How can we hold governments accountable for making progress in these areas and simultaneously cutting the funding that has aided these activities toward reaching these goals? It does not add up.

We must fight HIV and AIDS, yes; but we must not rob from Peter to pay Paul. Child survival is important. Democracy and good governance are important, and in a day when the administration wages its war against terrorism, the administration is seeking to cut military and security aid by 23 percent in Africa, a \$130 million cut, as well as peacekeeping aid in Africa by nearly 50 percent. Is the \$75 million increase in HIV and AIDS a result of the cuts in other line items?

If we are serious about combating the most lethal killer we have known, we must integrate our efforts in other areas. We cannot stem the tide of HIV if we are cutting aid to agriculture, trade and investment or democracy programs. HIV affects all other sectors of society, not only health. Therefore, we have to combat the effects HIV has

had on all of the areas, and we should not move towards cutting aid in those areas to fight HIV and AIDS, because it is all together.

I once again commend the administration for its effort, and we look forward to working with the administration in this new dedicated war against HIV and AIDS.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight, and I want to especially thank my good friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and applaud my CBC colleagues for their hard work in bringing us together here tonight to talk about the HIV pandemic.

The global fight against HIV/AIDS is important to U.S. security interests because the disease has proven to be a significant destabilizing force in much of the developing world. It has removed many of the most productive members from society and devastated the social, political and economic infrastructures of those countries hardest hit.

Mr. Speaker, today, the chance of a 15-year-old African girl making it to the age of 60 is 52 percent. By 2010, it will be about a 30 percent chance. This will have a sizeable impact on the future of African society. With this kind of outlook for African youth, investment in education and economic advancement practically become non-issues.

In January, President Bush proposed spending \$15 billion over five years to fight global HIV/AIDS. The plan would commit \$3 billion a year for five years to global AIDS reduction, including \$200 million a year for the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

I understand that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will take up the legislation very soon. The House International Relations Committee will consider a comparable bill.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this boost in spending is not a fait accompli. We must fight to ensure that Congress commits to the increase in Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria while preventing politics from intruding on decisions about health care.

The purpose of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is to attract, manage and disburse additional resources for health through a new public-private partnership. It is hoped that this will make a sustainable and significant contribution to the reduction of infections, illness and death and thereby mitigate the impact caused by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in countries in need, and contribute to poverty reduction as part of the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Speaker, We still have a long way to go to raise awareness about the disease and to ensure that Nations have the resources to implement proven prevention and treatment programs. We must do more to help those countries to combat these deadly diseases.

We must commit ourselves to doing more, and I hope that this Congress can make that commitment, and I strongly urge the President of the United States to do the same for the Global Fund.

#### AMERICAN HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCOTTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from California (Mr.

CUNNINGHAM) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to commend my colleagues on the other side, especially the Congressional Black Caucus. This was an informative hour. It was not to blast the White House or Republicans. It was issues of general concern, of moneys that they think should be put in, and it was issue-based, and I would like to commend my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, my friend and I, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), whose seat is down in San Diego, California, we come to praise Caesar and on a positive note, too many times that this Nation loses its heroes, and they are not recognized.

Tonight, it was actually my colleague's idea. I just kind of chummed along. We stand up tonight and mention some folks that we know that have contributed to national security, that have contributed to every man and woman's life in this country, and some other countries as well; and with that, I would yield to my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for yielding, who is, in fact, one of those rare individuals himself, one of the great leaders in aviation in this last quarter century, as the only American ace from Vietnam and a nominee for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Reclaiming my time, I would like to correct that. My backseater, Willy Driscoll, qualified, and the Air Force, Steve Ritchie was a pilot Ace, and Jeff Feinstein in the backseat.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, let me qualify that. The gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), along with Willy Driscoll, were the first aces in Vietnam, but actually the only Navy aces, and my colleague has had a great record there.

What I wanted to do tonight, and I know my colleague has a number of aviation leaders and I think it is appropriate at this time in our history, when we are on the verge of perhaps another conflict and we have lots of people deployed and lots of people defending liberty around the world for the United States, is to reflect on some of the great Americans who have stepped forward as citizen soldiers, so to speak, and led this Nation.

I am not a pilot and I am not a great friend of aircrafts, but one thing that I have always reflected on was that if we did not have these people who came from our villages, from our farms, from our cities and had a desire to fly and saw an intrigue in flying and interest in flying, and thereby became involved and ultimately became pilots in uniform for this country, we would not have this great country, because as Billy Mitchell said, and we are going to reflect on him a little bit, we entered the age of air power early in this century, and it was American air power

that has helped us to retain our freedom.

What I thought I wanted to do, I know we have got a number of people to talk about: Billy Mitchell, Chuck Yeager, Joe Foss, and several others.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. General Cardenas.

Mr. HUNTER. I thought we might start with General Bob Cardenas, who is a quiet man. He is a guy we do not see on a lot of magazine covers, but Bob Cardenas is a great test pilot, great bomber pilot who had his bomber blown apart in World War II, landed on one side of the lake, in fact German side of the lake, other side of the lake was Switzerland. He and his colleague, who also bailed out, swam that lake to get to freedom, and Bob later became one of the great test pilots of this country and he flew the B-29 and was a project manager and flew the B-29 that dropped Chuck Yeager's X-1 out in October of 1947 and watched it break the speed of sound.

So Bob Cardenas was a remarkable individual, a guy who came up through San Diego, went to San Diego State. He used to build model airplanes as a kid. He got involved in flying, saw those. He helped local glider pilots with their construction of their planes. He bummed rides with folks who were flying guide gliders. He was a very bright student and went to San Diego State and ultimately joined the United States Air Force; and Robert Cardenas has been just a model of what I would call our first citizens, our best citizens.

Today, Bob is a guy who leads veterans groups in San Diego; and if a person has an important veterans issue, Bob Cardenas will be there, never for pay, never for reward, never with a kind of a pronouncement that is designed to attract attention, but the quiet man, with lots of wisdom.

One of my favorite pictures of Bob Cardenas is one that was taken by a tourist in, I believe it was 1953, when he flew the flying Wing right down Pennsylvania Avenue at the request of President Truman. In fact, it was not 1953. It was February 9, 1949. The flying Wing looks exactly like a B-2 bomber at a distance, and yet at 1949, when I was 1 year old, this great test pilot flew this flying Wing which is very difficult to control. In fact, he wrote a memo that went to President Truman saying it was not suitable to be a bomber aircraft at that time, but he flew it right down Pennsylvania Avenue and he flew it over this Capitol.

His boss said, Bob, fly down Pennsylvania Avenue and try not to hit a tree; and Bob was watching those trees so intently he said he just barely saw the Capitol in time and pulled up. It just so happened there was a photographer out here to the east of the Capitol, just a tourist, who took this incredible, dramatic picture in 1949 of that flying Wing coming right over the United States Capitol, and that autographed picture is one of my treasured mementoes because it reflects a guy

who came from San Diego with an open demeanor, with a great character and with just a desire to fly and to help his country while he was doing it, just a very open and honest expression of patriotism and developed into one of the great fighter pilots or one of the great test pilots of all time and ended up being an important figure in the advancement of American aerospace.

Today, as we watch these B-1 batlike airplanes, these B-2s, half a century later rolling out into action and being in theater now in the Gulf, and prepared for potential action against an adversary, every time I see one of those planes I think of this great Bob Cardenas, 1949, flying that plane at President Truman's request over the U.S. Capitol.

So Bob is obviously one of our mutual heroes, and I hope to see him soon and tell him that we have been talking about him today.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California. I actually went through the whole page of things we were going to talk about General Cardenas, but I have got a couple of others that I have got to mention.

General Cardenas is one of the few individuals that can tree a person with a smile. There is not a day goes by that I do not get a call from General Cardenas, and he says, "Duke, what have you and Duncan done for the veterans today?"

I would be happy to announce also that he was very instrumental in San Diego. Widows and sometimes widowers have to drive clear up to Riverside, a 3½ hour drive, to visit the grave sites of their loved ones that they lost in different wars, the veterans. General Cardenas held some of the first meetings. We looked, we worked in a bipartisan way and ended up finding a spot at the former naval air station, Miramar, which now is MAS Miramar by the Marine Corps; and we found some 300 acres that will be a satellite for Fort Rosecrans that will provide over 200 grave sites.

General Cardenas was instrumental and he was a driving force that pressed us and Tony Principi, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to come up with this site; and he also was inducted into the Aerospace Walk of Honor, and as the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) mentioned, has done hundreds of things in the field of aerospace itself.

But as a combat veteran and a veteran that has done a lot for space and for others, I was at General Yeager's 80th birthday a while back, and General Cardenas was prominent in that conversation at that meeting as well.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman has led into one of our mutual friends and a great hero, Chuck Yeager, a great hero for this century who came out of, as my Dad calls him, the citizen soldiers; and my dad had written recently about how people from the outdoors often have a penchant for the military because they learn

how to shoot, they learn how to be vigilant, they learn how to be alert. And those qualities serve them well when they get into the military, and Chuck Yeager is one of those people.

Where would my colleague place Chuck Yeager as a great fighter pilot and a great test pilot? He was a guy with both qualities.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, we had studied when I was a kid, we studied about General Yeager and his exploits; and the first time I actually met him was at the naval air station Miramar, and he gave a lecture. This was before I ever went to Vietnam and flew, and General Yeager talked about getting engagement with a MiG and then you sit there and pulled about six Gs over the corner, came over the top, came back around and pulled six Gs. Then it was Colonel Yeager when he was briefing us. One of the guys said, "Colonel Yeager, why didn't you shoot this guy?" Because this was me, this was me out in front.

Mr. HUNTER. He is a man not without a sense of humor, also.

□ 1845

The second time I guess I had an engagement with General Yeager was the very first time I was able to join the American Fighter Aces Reunion. There had been no new fighter ace in almost 30 years, and we had our first reunion in San Antonio when Willy and I came back from Vietnam. And the press came up to me and said, "Duke, how do you feel about joining Joe Foss and Pappy Boyington and Chuck Yeager and all these different guys?" And General Yeager was there. And the press guy said, look, if you and General Yeager would get into a dog fight, who would win? He wanted me to put down General Yeager. My answer was, "General Yeager is not only a test pilot and a fighter pilot and a combat pilot, but he has done a million things I have not ever done before."

So I would basically not answer his question. But after the press guy left, I looked at Chuck and said, "General Yeager, I'll meet you at 15,000 feet and I'll have your donkey." And his immediate response was, "Bring it on, Duke," which you would expect from General Yeager.

So this is one of the all-time greats that have contributed not just to combat aviation, but when you look at the first man to go supersonic, the first man in the X1 and the X1-A that set speed records of over 1600 miles an hour, he is right up there.

Mr. HUNTER. My father sent some commentary about these citizen soldiers, and Chuck Yeager is one of these guys, because dad always felt that people with this outdoor background had a special rapport with the military. He says, and I am quoting, "Hardened by frontier life, Americans have always been able to use their woodsmanship and facilities with firearms to win any wars that were thrust upon us."

Organizations such as the Boy Scouts, citizen gun clubs, the Amer-

ican Rifle Association and veterans groups, have successfully resisted the efforts of those anti-gun forces that would like to disarm the average American. In the Spanish-American War and World Wars I and II, American forces have mobilized in short order and defeated their enemies. Our citizen soldiers are our greatest defense and are mobilized and used by those who make our Armed Forces their profession."

And if you read the exploits of Chuck Yeager, a kid that grew up in West Virginia hunting and fishing and tracking, it is very clear, and he reflects many times about how he used these developments in his instincts and his capabilities and his reflexes, and certainly his shooting ability to our advantage when he was in combat. And when you go out among our troops that are deploying now for Desert Storm II, possibly, and for the war against terrorism, you talk to lots of people who have become proficient in firearms and in the outdoors, whether they are in infantry or in the Navy or in the aerial forces. There is a certain insight that that kind of a background gives you.

Maybe Chuck Yeager is one of the greatest examples of that. And when I saw him the other day, he said that he had walked away from his last test piloting at Edwards Air Force Base in California just a few weeks before his 80th birthday. And I know my friend visited him on his 80th birthday.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. We went up to northern California for his 80th birthday. I guess being a fighter pilot is okay, because General Yeager is 80 years old and he is dating a 35-year-old woman that he met on a hiking trail in the Sierras. If you look at General Yeager, he looks like he is 40, not 80.

I just hope that I have accomplished one-tenth of the things he has when I am 80 years old and still have the spirit of heart that he does.

Mr. HUNTER. Let us move to another guy, whose picture my friend just gave me a couple of months ago, and who passed away. He was a great, great friend of ours, but what a great leader for America. Joe Foss.

Joe Foss shot down over 20 aircraft in World War II. He was a great marine fighter pilot. He went back and became the governor of South Dakota. He was the commissioner of the American football League between 1988 and 1990. In fact, I think you were one of the guys that urged him to run and he did and became the President of the National Rifle Association.

And that takes me back to my dad's treatise to the effect that a lot of country boys become great military leaders and great pilots because of this sixth sense that they develop in the woods. Joe Foss is one of those guys. And that autographed picture you gave me of Joe Foss, that I have still on my wall, is very treasured, because Joe Foss passed away just a few weeks ago.

What a great hero he was for this century. And that great story, the

Bridges of Toko Ri that was about Korea, where James Michener talked about where Americans got these people that flew off these tiny carriers and went out and found the enemy and took them on, and then tried to find that little bitty postage stamp out there rocking in the middle of the ocean. And how extraordinary it was that at a time when the rest of us were living a life of comfort, people like that should come forward. That was Joe Foss, coming out of South Dakota. A great guy, bigger than life, a guy who had gotten in lots of rough and tumble situations, but a guy with an absolute heart of gold. Joe Foss. When did the gentleman first meet Joe?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Well, as a kid, I had read about Pappy Boyington, Chuck Yeager and Joe Foss, but the first time I ever met Joe was, again, at the American Fighter Aces Reunion in San Antonio. And I covet that picture I gave the gentleman, because I never thought we would be without Joe. He was bigger than life. So I am going to have his wife, DeeDee, send me one of those pictures and sign it for Joe so I can hang it on my wall.

I have a special memory of Joe Foss. He and I were inducted into the Riverside Aviation Hall of Fame together. And after the event, people in the audience were able to ask questions. There was an 8-year-old that stood up, and it was the first questioner of General Foss and myself, and his question was, "General Foss, Duke Cunningham flew jets in Vietnam. You only flew propeller airplanes, didn't you?" You could see the twinkle in General Foss's eye.

He was a grandfatherly type guy, very strong Christian, no nonsense Christian. And so the little kid says, "Well, General Foss, what does a propeller really do on an airplane?" General Foss looked at the 8-year-old and he said, "Son, the propeller is put there to keep the pilot cool." The little kid shook his head, and General Foss looked at him and said, "Son, I'm not lying to you. If it stops, you watch him sweat."

And that is the kind of individual Joe Foss was. He was not only good with aviators, and people in management as a governor, and head of the NRA and other issues, but he really related to children and fostered that kind of spirit.

General Foss told me a story about when he was a little boy. He took his rifle that the gentleman referred to and he shot a light fixture off a telephone pole. When he came back home his father asked him what he shot today; squirrels? He said I shot a couple of things. His dad asked if he shot any squirrels, and he said, I shot a couple of squirrels, but he did not want to tell his dad about the light fixture. But when his dad pressed him, he says, well, I shot one of those little glass things on a telephone pole. His dad said, Joe, take your 22 and put it in the corner for 1 year. And he did not get to touch that rifle for 1 year.

Joe drove his father's car, and he went out and dinged it. When he came back with a dent on it, Joe's father said, you do not drive that car for 1 year. So his father's discipline was a 1-year policy. So Joe said he grew up on the straight and narrow, but that is the kind of guy that Joe was. And if you talk to the American Fighter Aces, or basically anybody that knew Joe Foss, he ranks among the heroes and the great ones.

Mr. HUNTER. Joe Foss, as the gentleman said, was inspirational to so many young people. He was born in 1915 in South Dakota and helped to run the family farm. In fact, he had to drop out of college to do that. But when he was 11 years old in South Dakota he got to meet Charles Lindbergh, and it was that inspiration and meeting the guy who had flown across the Atlantic and was such an American hero at that time that inspired him to himself become an aviator.

So this is a great family of aviators that we have, and Joe, again, won the Medal of Honor. He shot down some 24 aircraft.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Twenty-six.

Mr. HUNTER. Twenty-six aircraft. He was shot down himself on November 7, 1942, and he was rescued the next day. So what a great hero, Joe Foss.

But the gentleman that was a special guy, who has been to a number of events and community gatherings we have both been at, and that is Wally Schirra.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. The Honorable Wally Schirra.

Mr. HUNTER. My favorite picture is a picture of you hunting pheasants with Wally Schirra. Tell us a little bit about that guy.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Well, Wally, like General Foss, like Chuck Yeager, like most of the greats, grew up hunting and fishing. He is an outdoorsman. And Wally and I were up in northern California hunting pheasants together, along with a whole group of our folks that go up there yearly. A guy named Ernie King set it up. He used to live in my district but now lives up in Oregon.

If you knew Wally Schirra, he looks like an English Lord when he hunts. He never buys anything. He used to work for Monsanto and they gave him every stitch of clothes he had. He has these little Lord jackets, these Little Lord hats, these little Lord hunting pants with the ruffles, and the little shoes and booties. And of course we make fun of him, but he does not care. Well, his little Lord hat fell on the ground and one of the guys threw it up in the air and it landed on the end of my shotgun. Wally looked at me and said, "Duke, you wouldn't."

So I pulled the trigger, and of course it blew a big hole in his hat. It was the most expensive hat I have ever paid for in my life. The thing cost about \$200. But it was worth every minute, especially when Wally wore it for the rest of the day like that.

Mr. HUNTER. Well, Wally, that guy whose hat you blew up, was one of the

original seven astronauts. And he was the only astronaut to have flown on all three space craft, *Mercury*, *Gemini*, and *Apollo*. And what is remarkable, and maybe this was caught to some degree in that movie *The Right Stuff*, which had a lot of Chuck Yeager in it, but also had some astronauts, was that a lot of Americans in aviation, who did not take themselves too seriously, and Wally Schirra was one of those guys and still is one of those guys, and who had a great sense of humor, did very serious things. Here is a guy who was a pilot, a naval officer, carrier-based fighter pilot and test pilot, and engaged in this very serious pursuit in which a lot of people were killed.

After they came back from war, people like Richard Bong, who shot down more planes in the Pacific theater than anyone, was killed on his first test flight trying to fly a new experimental aircraft. So these Americans, like Wally, like Chuck Yeager, like others, and I think we are reminded of this in the wake of the events with *Columbia*, live in a world which is very dangerous, and in which a lot of their friends and colleagues have died. And in doing that, they have pushed American capability and technology, and we are able to keep ourselves free to a much further height than we could have ever achieved if we did not have these great people.

So Wally Schirra is a great member of our San Diego community, and I think my colleague painted a great picture of Wally. He probably treasures that hat that you shot.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Well, I have a better picture of Wally. Because General Yeager and myself and Wally Schirra had a satellite feed that one of the television systems set up, and we were piped in basically into high schools across the United States, where young people interested in aviation could call in and ask General Yeager, Wally or myself questions. I did not get many questions. They wanted to talk to Wally and General Yeager.

One young man called in and said, "Mr. Schirra, when you flew *Apollo*, were you afraid?" And Wally looked into the camera and he said, "Son, you're sitting there in *Apollo*, an aircraft with a million moving parts, all of them put there by the lowest bidder. Do you think I had any reason for concern?" But that, again, like when Joe Foss talked to the 8-year-old or Wally Schirra relates to children, they never forget where their roots came from and they speak to the youth to get them interested in math and science and aviation and spacecraft.

It has been an honor for me just to walk among these men. I am an American, I am a man, but I walk among heroes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, there is another guy who preceded all these people that we have talked about. He is a guy who, in this city, was actually taken to court-martial at one point because he told the United States, when

he was a U.S. officer, a General officer, he announced to the world and to the United States that we were not ready for war and that we needed to be doing more. And, of course, sometimes when you tell the truth, that gets you in trouble. But in the 1930s, we were not ready for war.

This guy's name was Billy Mitchell. In fact, one time I was carrying on about Billy Mitchell and how great he was at warning us to get ready for this new age of air power, and the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS), one of our great colleagues, asked me to quit lecturing him on Billy Mitchell because, he said, Billy Mitchell was my uncle. And he knew a lot more about Billy Mitchell than I did.

But Billy Mitchell took a tour of the world in the 1920s and came back reported to the Coolidge administration about where he thought our vulnerabilities lay. He would go out and analyze scenarios in which he thought we might be attacked.

□ 1900

More than a decade before Pearl Harbor, he predicted at some point we would be attacked by a low-level, early-dawn attack by aircraft from Japan at Pearl Harbor. The only thing that he also, in predicting what they might try to do, part of the blueprint that they did not follow, luckily, was that they did not blow up the fuel depots which he predicted that any enemy that attacked Pearly Harbor, that they would try to blow up.

He warned this country that we lived in an age of air power. He came back from this tour of a very dangerous, and it is relevant for us to remember now that we stand on the ledge of this new century in what appears to be a very dangerous world. Billy Mitchell warned us that we had entered the age of air power, and that the United States had better become dominant in air power because if we did not, we would be losing future engagements.

I recently looked back at the aircraft that were flown in World War I, and apparently most of those aircraft were French and British aircraft. We were not really in the age of air power.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I do not think that the French ones worked.

Mr. HUNTER. The French aircraft were unusual. Most of them were parked. We will talk about that later.

Billy Mitchell gave an extraordinary warning to this country. He was not received well at the White House. There were a lot of budget hawks that did not want to spend a bunch of money on military equipment. After all, the 1930s were supposed to be a very peaceful time. So they gave him short-shrift, and he became more and more insistent in his demands that the United States gear up for what he saw as a coming storm.

He made statements to the effect that we were unprepared for war, so they court martialed him. In the movie

Gary Cooper played Billy Mitchell. He sacrificed his own career to wake America up. I have often thought about if Billy Mitchell came back and told us we were entering the age of air power and we had better become proficient at it or we would be in dire straits.

Similarly, we have now entered the age of missiles, and now that we have seen North Korea shooting the TD-2 missile with the capability of reaching the west coast of the United States, when we look at their unstable leadership, I am reminded of the fact that we are deep in the age of missiles, and we need to be awakened, just as America needed to be awakened by Billy Mitchell in the 1920s and 1930s that we were in the age of air power; and we need to be awakened that we are deeply in the age of missiles, and we better have the ability to shoot down missiles.

Billy Mitchell had this extraordinary career in which he not only shot down enemy aircraft and was a leader in aviation, but he also spoke out. I think that is another trademark of these great aviators that we have talked about. Joe Foss spoke out. Bob Cardenas is still speaking out. Chuck Yeager spoke out very strongly and forcefully. And Billy Mitchell was also a guy that really spoke out.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Billy Mitchell started flying in 1916. This was the time that Manfred von Richthofen, the Red Ace flew. He predicted these things that were going to happen in 1942 with Japan. He was also looked at being court martialed. He said if we did not have our air power, the Navy would be decimated without air power covering the top of it. One of the admirals said, I will stand on top of this battleship while you attack it, and Billy went out and single-handedly sunk this destroyer, which also showed air power, if we go into any war without air power, the Navy is very, very vulnerable, or without missile cover. Billy Mitchell is among the greats that we talk about.

One of the things that I would like to talk about before we move to the next one, just to be a great name does not mean that you are a hero, but I will tell Members the names of some real heroes. Willy White, when I was in Vietnam, jumped up on my airplane and he said, "Lieutenant Cunningham, we got our MiG today, didn't we?" And Willy was telling me that they felt part of a team.

Last night I was watching television, and on there was a movie that was very moving. It was called "Glory." It was about a white colonel that was killed in the battle of this movie, but he led black troops in the 54th Regiment, and these troops were asked to fight against a fort. First of all, the general that was talking to the colonel said you have not slept for 2 days and the colonel said, True, General, we have not slept for 2 days, but they have fight left in them. They have character, strength of heart, and you should have seen us just 2 days ago.

The black soldiers that night sat around a camp fire knowing that they

were going to lead this attack. They volunteered to lead this attack which was going to be the highest casualties. As a matter of fact, in "Glory" the black soldiers under this command and their leader took 50 percent casualties. They never did take the fort, but the point was that one of the soldiers said, if I should fall, who will carry the standard, meaning the flag. A voice quipped out, I will, sir, and then, I will, sir. Seven different times that flag fell and each time a black soldier picked that flag up and went forward knowing that they would probably be killed.

When we talk about greats and aviation greats and heroes in this world, I think some of the things that have happened in our own history are sad; but when I think about like Denzel Washington who played in the movie, had a difficult time speaking, with tears, he said, I love the 54th. This is my family, and we are men.

That is the spirit of the fighting men and women that we honor here tonight, not just with General Yeager and Billy Mitchell and Wally Schirra, but with men like this that have given their utmost. And today, when we are looking at Iraq, and our men and women are stationed in the Middle East and all over this world, we should pay them an homage and honor what they are doing for us here today.

Mr. HUNTER. That reminds me of something that President Reagan said, and I am thinking of all those troops wearing the Desert Storm camouflage in the Middle East, you can go to France, you can never become a Frenchman. You can go to Germany, and you can never become a German. You can go to Mexico, and you can never become a Mexican. But you come to the United States, and you become an American. All of us are united behind the American flag, and it has been the greatest mixer of people and the greatest set of common values and common ground that free people could rally around in the history of the world.

I think it is appropriate that you brought this story to us tonight because that is the story of our country. I think that there is no greater force to bring people together in this country than the U.S. military. It brings people together, whether they have titles behind their names or have gone to universities of renown or have lots of money or no money. It brings them all together for a common cause, and it provides a line of communication and touching and rapport with their colleague standing next to them, who may have come from the other side of the country.

I want to mention two other people, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), our great friend whom we honored the other day with a resolution. As a POW he was an Air Force guy who did a great job, and he is such a leader in Congress today.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Does the gentleman from California know what is

put on the bottom of a Coke bottle at an Air Force base?

Mr. HUNTER. No, but I think you are going to tell me.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Open other end.

Mr. HUNTER. We are going to have calls on that. There is another guy I want to mention and that is Duke Cunningham because you have come to this body with lots of stature that you won on the battlefield, and you went through a lot of the same feelings that a lot of those guys are feeling right now getting ready for action in what could be a very difficult theater.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague is a man who was heavily decorated with the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart and lots of Flying Crosses, and we appreciate the gentleman's great service to the country. Having the gentleman here to bring the common sense and practicality of operating aircraft to this body, which often just sees aircraft and services in terms of numbers and reflections on pages, has been a great service to our Congress. My colleague is the last hero that I want to point to today, but not least.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I remember attacking a site and the guy on the ground said hit the purple smoke, and the purple smoke was their position. And it was guys like the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the rangers in Vietnam that were trying to scamper down the back side of a hill; and I remember thinking I am glad that I am in this nice air-conditioned airplane at 20,000 feet, not scampering down on the ground like the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. Speaker, it is all relative. Men like the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) was a prisoner of war for 7 years. Half of that time was in solitary confinement. He was leader of the Air Force Thunderbirds, and what a marvelous representative he is here.

When Americans hold up their heads and look to heroes, we know that Mexican Americans, Hispanics, had more per capita Medal of Honor winners than any other group. Because of their values and defense of national security and taking care of their families and so on, that the Tuskegee Airmen, during very difficult times in our country with racism, fought through those barriers. Not a single bomber went down that was escorted by a Tuskegee Airman, and those are the kinds of things that I am talking about.

We have a friend in Vietnam that took almost 6 years to knit an American flag together to have it like the Speaker has here tonight so people could celebrate when a few POWs got together. The Vietnamese guards came in, saw the POW without his shirt, and ripped it apart and they took him out and brutally beat him for hours. They did not think he would survive. They comforted him on the side. He had a broken jaw and internal injuries. And so they started conducting their meeting, and there this broken-bodied POW had drug himself to the center of the

floor and started grabbing those bits of thread that had been shred up so he could knit another American flag. That is the spirit that we are embodying here tonight, from the 54th in "Glory" to the Tuskegee Airmen, to the Hispanics that contributed, to the Filipinos who gave your father the flag, I believe, which flew over Baguio when the Japanese took over Baguio which you donated to a museum.

This is the American spirit, and this is the spirit that we will overcome regardless of what Saddam Hussein does.

Mr. HUNTER. This is the picture of General Bob Cardenas in 1949 flying the flying Wing right over this Capitol. I thank the gentleman for letting me be part of this Special Order tonight.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McCOTTER). The Chair reminds Members to refer to each other by State delegation, and to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2155

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS) at 9 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 878, ARMED FORCES TAX FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-25) on the resolution (H. Res. 126) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 878) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for members of the uniformed services and Foreign Service in determining the exclusion of gain from the sale of a principal residence and to restore the tax exempt status of death gratuity payments to members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and ex-

tend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HILL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KILPATRICK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DOGGETT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LANGEVIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIERNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOLT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CAPUANO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INSLEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DELAHUNT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SOLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BACA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FOLEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HAYES, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TANCREDI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KIRK, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 111. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the national significance of the Miami Circle, site in the State of Florida as well as the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System as part of Biscayne National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 117. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange certain land in the State of Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

S. 144. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide assistance through States to eligible weed management entities to control or eradicate harmful, nonnative weeds on public and private land; to the Committee on Resources in addition to the Committee on Agriculture for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 210. An act to provide for the protection of archaeological sites in the Galisteo Basin in New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 214. An act to designate Fort Bayard Historic District in the State of New Mexico

as a National Historic Landmark, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 233. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Coltsville in the State of Connecticut for potential inclusion in the National Park System; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 254. An act to revise the boundary of the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park in the State of Hawaii, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 6, 2003, at 10 a.m.

#### OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Members of the 108th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

#### ALABAMA

1 Jo Bonner  
2 Terry Everett  
3 Mike Rogers  
4 Robert B. Aderholt  
5 Robert E. (Bud) Cramer, Jr.  
6 Spencer Bachus  
7 Artur Davis

#### ALASKA

At Large

Don Young

#### ARIZONA

1 Rick Renzi  
2 Trent Franks  
3 John B. Shadegg  
4 Ed Pastor  
5 J.D. Hayworth  
6 Jeff Flake  
7 Raúl M. Grijalva  
8 Jim Kolbe

#### ARKANSAS

1 Marion Berry  
2 Vic Snyder